

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

At paragraph 7 of the outstanding office action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 13-16 are objected to as being rejected upon a base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 4 and have rewritten claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 4. Applicant therefore submits that claim 1, and claims 3, 5 and 7-11, and 21-35 depending therefrom, are allowable. Further, Applicant has written claims 13 and 16 in independent form, and therefore submits that these claims, as well as claims 14-15 dependent from claim 13, are also allowable.

Applicant has cancelled the remaining claims without prejudice to the continued prosecution of these claims in a continuation application. Cancellation of these claims is merely to speed prosecution of the allowed claims and should not be construed as an agreement with the Examiner's arguments, or an acquiescence in the rejection of the claims.

At paragraph 8 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has set forth a number of reasons for allowance.

To the extent the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicant's attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicant's contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

should not be construed as a surrender by Applicant of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicant, by his attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

CONCLUSION

Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinion of Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing a basis for a contrary view.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place claims 1, 3, 5, 7-11 and 13-35 in condition for allowance, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is unable to issue a Notice of Allowance regarding these claims, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney in order to discuss any further outstanding issues.

Early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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